

URGES ACTION ON RAILROAD BILL

Senator Robinson Stresses the Need of Ending Present Uncertain Status.

REPLIES TO OPPONENTS

"Federal Control and Operation of Roads Necessary, Almost Unavoidable."

Washington, Feb. 15.—Senator Robinson, in discussing the administration railroad bill today, urged its early enactment as a war measure of vital importance both to the government and to the public.

"It is desirable to end the existing uncertainty as to the status of the railroads and the policy of the government in the operation of the same," he declared, "and to take such action as may be necessary to prevent loss and inconvenience to the public resulting from the lack of necessary arrangements for maintenance and indispensable improvements. Furthermore, the financial plans and policies of the administration can be much more readily formulated and consummated; the enormous funds necessary to be secured through liberty loans and otherwise can be more readily obtained when the vexing questions connected with this legislation have been answered and the purpose and policy of the government in the control and operation of transportation lines have been definitely fixed by law."

Differ With Cummins.

Senator Robinson took issue with Senator Cummins, who said the standard of compensation provided in the bill guaranteed returns unnecessarily high to the carriers. He said the compensation "approximates the actual amount of compensation which a court would in all probability award a carrier upon trial of its case."

Replying to Senator Kellogg's statement that President Wilson's action in taking over control of the railroads was unnecessary, the Arkansas senator said:

"I believe that federal control and operation were necessary, indeed almost unavoidable, and that the president acted wisely in not exercising the powers conferred upon him by congress to take over the railroads and operate them in time of war until necessary for such action had been recognized by public opinion."

War Board Handicapped.

Efforts of the railroad war board to meet the situation were praised but Senator Robinson said the board could not make or repeal law and, most important of all, it could not remove the natural obstacles to unified operation created by the desire and obligation of every railroad manager to get out of his line all the business he could obtain."

NO REWARD OFFERED BY GOVERNOR FOR LYNCHERS

Has No Constitutional Authority to Do So Until Called Upon by County Officials.

(Special to The News.)

Nashville, Feb. 15.—Gov. Rye has offered no reward for the apprehension of the members of the mob that lynched the negro McIlwain at East Springs Tuesday night, for the reason that he has not been asked to do so by the authorities of Franklin county. In the absence of action on the part of the proper authorities of the county, legal opinion holds that it is doubtful whether the governor is authorized under the constitution to offer a reward in such cases.

The governor, along with all other good citizens, is outraged in his condemnation of such acts of lawlessness, but, while he is charged, under the constitution, with the enforcement of the laws, he is not clothed with the power to override the rights of the people in the exercise of his executive prerogative, authorize ouster proceedings against a judge of a court for failure to do his duty, but in this East Springs case the fact has not yet been established that any judge of a court having competent jurisdiction has been wilfully unfaithful of his duty.

Prompt action on the part of the governor will not be withheld when the authorities of Franklin county act.

PRODUCTION OF NEWS PRINT PAPER REDUCED

Washington, Feb. 15.—Production of news print paper was considerably reduced during January because of the fuel restriction order, and averaged 4,500 tons a day, against a normal 4,500 tons as shown in the federal trade commission's monthly review.

Jobbers' stocks show shipments exceeding receipts, publishers' stocks also show a decline but also an increase in quantity in transit.

During the month only eleven contracts were reported at a price higher than \$3 a hundred pounds at the mill.

TO PREPARE AGAINST FLOODS NEXT SPRING

Jefferson City, Mo., Feb. 15.—An appeal for troops to guard levees along the Mississippi river should the stream reach a dangerous flood stage next spring, was sent yesterday to Secretary Baker in the form of a letter, signed jointly by Gov. Gardner, of Missouri; Gov. Brough, of Arkansas; and Gov. Bilbo, of Mississippi, and Gov. Pleasant, of Louisiana.

Should the levees be interfered with by enemies of the country, it is pointed out, there would be a great destruction of crops and a crippling of transportation facilities.

FEEDING WHEAT TO HOGS; NO CORN IN OKLAHOMA

Washington, Feb. 15.—Stock raisers in Oklahoma are feeding wheat to hogs on account of a shortage of corn, the senate agriculture committee was told today by John A. Simpson, of Weatherford, Okla., who said that wheat at \$3 a bushel should be provided to give the Oklahoma farmers full protection. The corn crop in most sections of Oklahoma was a failure, he said.

Price-fixing has discouraged farmers, he said. The reason given by farmers for feeding wheat to hogs was that they could not haul a load of wheat to the market and for the money obtained for it bring back a load of corn.

SAMMIES READY FOR THE HUN TORPEDO.



This photograph, taken on the deck of an American transport in the submarine-infested war zone, shows the Sammies outfit with life belts. They don't appear to be worried. How many Sammies were saved by such lifebelts on the transport Tuscania, recently sent down near the Irish coast, cannot be estimated. But in practically every sinking a share of the survivors owe their lives to the belts which enable them to keep afloat until help arrives. Lifeboats fitted with "skids" which keep them upright as they slid down the side of the ship are now being tested by the government. These "skids" double the lifeboat capacity of a vessel by making the boats on both sides of the ship available. Those on the "high" side of the tipping vessel have previously been useless.

BROWN AND EVANS MAY RUN

Republicans Plan to Put Out Candidate for Attorney-General and Judge, Respectively.

From political sources high in the councils of the republican party comes the information that a movement is on foot which, if successfully put through, will mean the nomination of Joseph E. Brown for attorney-general. Only the assurance from Mr. Brown that he will consent to become the republican candidate is needed to put the plan into action.

John Tinker, chairman of the county republican executive committee, is the authority for the statement that Mr. Brown will be the republican candidate for attorney-general.

Republican leaders charge that some little disaffection exists in the ranks of the democratic party over the plan adopted by the democratic executive committee in nominating a judicial ticket. It was openly charged on the floor of the committee meeting that judicial candidates had conspired with each other in an effort to choke off opposition by putting through a plan for a snap primary, and it is charged that this fact caused the retirement of at least two additional lawyers who would have qualified had the rules been different. Since the meeting of the democratic committee and its subsequent action political gossip has been rife to the effect that in the coming campaign this summer the republican party would offer at least two candidates for the four judicial positions to be filled. Joe Brown, junior member of the firm of Brown, Spurr, & Brown, is picked as the candidate for attorney-general, and Maj. Charles R. Evans, former judge of the circuit court, is picked as the candidate to oppose Oscar Yarnell, who is the democratic nominee to succeed Judge Bachman.

Joe Brown was born at Jasper in Sequatchie valley. He was reared in this city and attended the public and private schools here. He is a graduate of the Cumberland university law school and for a time practiced law at Jasper, county seat of Marion county. At that time he was associated with Lawrence Spears. Upon his removal to Chattanooga young Brown became the junior member of the firm with which he is now associated. His father, Foster V. Brown, in 1892 was elected attorney-general and served a full term of eight years in that position.

SOUTH PROMISED MORE COLD WEATHER

Next Week to Be One of Many Changes—Local Rains Indicated for Tennessee.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Fair and colder weather Monday, probably rain Tuesday and somewhat colder Wednesday is forecast for the south Atlantic and east gulf states during the week beginning tomorrow. Conditions the latter part of the week are uncertain, but without decided temperature changes. Cold, fair weather Monday and Tuesday, and rising temperature Wednesday with local rains is indicated for Tennessee. Conditions the latter part of the week are uncertain.

FIFTEEN MINES NOW IDLE IN BIRMINGHAM SECTION

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 15.—Two mines at Wylam and one at Decena suspended operation today when the miners laid down their tools, bringing the total number of mines in the Birmingham district idle on account of these strikes to fifteen. Approximately 7,000 miners, it is said, are on strike, claiming that the terms of the Garfield agreement are not being lived up to by the operators.

All of the mines idle, with the exception of one, owned by the Republic Iron and Steel company, belong to the Tennessee, Coal, Iron and Railroad company.

CAMOUFLAGE ELECTRIC STORM THRILLS BUT LURID DISPLAY DOESN'T STRIKE

Lookout and Raccoon Mountains Again Stumbling Block in Path of Storm's Fury—Vivid Electrical Display to South and West.

A bunch of camouflage storms came hurtling across the hillsides, roaring like a cage of lions, early this morning and headed toward Chattanooga. But the city, "girt round with rugged mountains," slept calmly on. Not a roof moved, chimney fell or a light blinked out, for this is what happened: The first storm met an armed resistance in the rock-ribbed, seamy sides of Raccoon mountain and westward rumbling off somewhere down the Sequatchie valley.

The second managed to "put one over," but met with a chill reception, in form of a column of icy cold air.

The third vanished into nothing-

ness, upon encountering the "cowed monk of the Cumberland"—Lookout mountain.

When one has listened, in trepidation, to the on-march of a magnetic disturbance for an hour or more, with scarcely a zephyr's breath between flashes and crashes, does he realize to what degree he is indebted to these storm-sentinels, guarding the western skyline, for his safety? If a loyal resident of the "Dixie Dynamo" he should surely do so. As troubles impending are worse than their visitation, so the very worst storms Chattanooga has ever had, are those which like the one this morning, never reached here.

MANY COMPLAIN AGAINST WATER COMPANY CHARGE

Method "Estimating" Amount Consumed While Meters Were Frozen Severely Criticized.

Complaints have been made to Commissioner Herron from two or three hundred places, protesting the high prices charged by the city waterworks. "On account of frozen meters during the past cold spell, the water company has taken the meters out in four or five hundred places, and instead of charging the minimum of 75 cents until adjustment could be made, the company has estimated the amount used. We are doing all we possibly can to adjust the matter," said Commissioner Herron today.

Asked if that department had a reply from the City Water company in answer to complaints filed, he said they had not.

These complaints are from the residences. No complaint has yet been filed from any business house.

"A meter is the same as a measuring device, and comes under the department of the sealers of weights and measures," he explained. "Evidently, discussing the situation Saturday, the company should have furnished the department with readings before taking the meters out," he commented. "We are doing all we can, and will adjust the matter in a very short time."

"Many houses were without city water for two weeks during the flood, and big bills were charged just the same," Commissioner Herron insisted so it appears that there is a reckoning on route.

SEABOARD AIR LINE CLERKS GET ADVANCE

Savannah, Ga., Feb. 15.—R. L. Patterson, of Savannah, a clerk for the Seaboard Air Line railway, who has been in Washington for several days, representing the local section of the brotherhood of railway mail clerks, has notified the chief of the local council that a new working agreement had been made by which the railroad agrees to grant the clerks a 20 per cent. increase in pay and to let eight hours constitute a working day.

UNPAID THEATRIANS NOW CINCINNATI BOUND

It is a long, long way to Cincinnati, but Grady & Wilson, headliners in a comedy act that has been holding the boards at the Wilder theater, started on their journey Friday night, after transportation had been secured through the assistance of the Associated Charities. In appealing to the charities, Grady & Wilson charged that the management of the company had not paid them for their services, and, as a result, they claimed, their baggage had been taken over by the Tennessee hotel as a means of covering their board bill there. It was alleged that the female manager of the show had been keeping the coin herself.

COAL OPERATORS MAKE EMPHATIC DENIAL

Did Not Intentionally Violate the Fuel Control Act—Many Ignorant of Charge.

(Special to The News.)

Knoxville, Feb. 15.—Emphatic denial of any intentional violation of the Lever fuel control act, or any other federal coal law or regulation, is made by the many coal operators and dealers against whom indictments were returned by the federal grand jury here. Many of them state that they do not know of what they are charged except that it is a violation of the Lever act. They have no knowledge of the direct charges, they assert.

United States District Atty.-Gen. W. T. Kennerly states that "open violations" have been made, that the investigations made by the special agents of the department of justice are just beginning, and that it was only because of the lack of time that more indictments were not returned. "There could have also been many more counts included in the indictments returned, had we thought it necessary, and had the time to make further," said Gen. Kennerly.

HUNDREDS GO TO SEE BODY OF VERNON CASTLE

Fort Worth, Tex., Feb. 15.—Hundreds of persons, principally women, who went to the undertaker's chapel today to see the body of Captain Vernon Castle, were denied admittance by the royal flying corps. The body will be sent to New York this afternoon for burial.

Brief religious services will be held previous to the start of the military funeral procession to the train.

STEAMER SUNK AT PIER TO EXTINGUISH BLAZE

An Atlantic Port, Feb. 15.—Fire in the hold of the Scandinavian steamer Minsk here today made it necessary for foremen, after a vain effort to extinguish the blaze to open the vessel's sea cocks, permitting the ship to sink in the mud at the pier where she was moored. The loss, mostly from water, is estimated at about \$50,000. The ship's cargo consisted of a large amount of Red Cross stores and cotton. She had been ready to sail for some days, but her owners are said to have held up her departure because they were reluctant to have her enter the submarine danger zone.

GEN. LITTEL DENIES HE RESIGNED POSITION

Washington, Feb. 15.—Lieut.-Col. R. J. Marshall, Jr., has been placed temporarily in charge of the cantonment construction in place of Col. I. W. Little, who yesterday was promoted to be a brigadier-general in the regular army.

Gen. Little has denied that he resigned his place as chief cantonment constructor. Reports that he left the office as the result of a clash with Maj.-Gen. Goethals were today unconfirmed.

HIGH HONOR FOR YOUNG LAWYER

Neal Thompson Appointed an Assistant to U. S. Attorney-General Gregory.

Neal L. Thompson, junior member of the firm of Thompson, Williams & Thompson, has been appointed one of the assistant attorneys-general of the United States. The appointment takes effect in about two weeks at which time Mr. Thompson will leave to take up his new duties. Mr. Thompson succeeds one of the attorneys-general who has enlisted in the aviation corps of the United States army. This is the third time within the past year that the Hamilton county bar has been given high recognition by the department of justice. The first was the appointment by Atty.-Gen. W. L. Gregory of Hon. W. L. Frier, son of this city, as first assistant attorney-general of the United States and then the appointment of C. S. Coffey by Gen. Frier as one of the assistant attorneys-general. Now the appointment of Mr. Thompson gives the bar of Chattanooga unusual distinction.

Mr. Thompson is one of the best known young members of the Hamilton county bar and, although he has only practiced law a short while, he has won unusual distinction. He is at present one of the assistant attorneys-general of the state, under his father, Atty.-Gen. Frank M. Thompson. For some time past he has been in charge of the work of compiling the reports of the state of Tennessee.

Neal L. Thompson is a native of Chattanooga, and, after finishing his high school education, followed in the footsteps of his distinguished father and took up the study of law. After graduating he returned to Chattanooga and entered the office of his father. By his energy and strict application to law, his ability was soon recognized by his father and Judge Joe V. Williams, and the young lawyer was taken in as a member of the firm of Thompson, Williams & Thompson. While the many friends of Mr. Thompson will regret that he will have to take up his residence in Washington they will gratulate on the distinct honor that has come to him so early in life.

NEW ORLEANS COTTON MEN IN FAVOR REFERENDUM

New Orleans, Feb. 15.—Directors of the New Orleans Association of Commerce announced today they had voted in favor of the referendum being conducted by the chamber of commerce of the United States on whether the business interests of this country should carry on a trade war against Germany after the war.

BOLL WORM CONFERENCE OPENED IN JACKSON

Jackson, Miss., Feb. 15.—A south-wide conference on the pink boll worm opened here this morning with delegates in attendance from nine southern states. Alex. C. Scott, of Rosedale, was chosen chairman, and G. E. Nesom, of New Orleans, secretary. Definite plans for combatting the cotton pest will be laid before adjournment this afternoon.

MEMPHIS AVIATOR AMONG MISSING ON TUSCANIA

Carl Pennebaker, a Memphis aviator, is reported by the government department as among the missing on the transport Tuscania. The information was sent to his brother, Robert Pennebaker, in Memphis.

He was 24 years old and was a member of the 158th aero squadron. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Pennebaker, reside at Rock Haven, Ky. He was engaged in the automobile business with his brother Robert in Memphis before going to war, and is said to have been an expert automobile man.

PLACES GERMANY IN PREDICAMENT

Washington So Views Trotsky's Decision for No War and Still No Peace.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Official Washington's opinion of bolshevik Foreign Minister Trotsky's decision for no war and still no peace with Germany, is that Trotsky, whether knowing it or not, has placed Germany in a military and diplomatic predicament. Movements of German troops from the Russian front have been stopped and it is believed by military men here that no further withdrawal of forces can be made until Berlin decided on a policy toward the bolsheviks. Such official reports as have been received do not say clearly whether the demobilization of Russian troops has been continued, but they do indicate a reorganization of the red guard.

Germany by repudiating the no annexation policy, officials here think, has widened the breach with the socialists who cry for peace. They also think Germany will be forced to go to the aid of the Ukrainians if the bolsheviks attack them.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE IS RESTORED

New York, Feb. 15.—The International News service announced today it had been officially restored to the mails and cable privileges on all lines controlled by Great Britain, its colonies and its allies. These privileges were denied the International News service in the fall of 1916.



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